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Editorial Notes

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, the great home missionary of the Northern Church, identified especially with the development of Alaska, died last week, in Asheville, N. C., aged seventy-five years. Few men have led more active lives or done a larger work. He magnified the home work. His name will rank in the history of the Northwest with that of Whitman.

At the spring meeting of Bethel Presbytery, in South Carolina, there were enrolled eighteen ministers and thirty-six ruling elders! That looks like business and Presbyterianism. Good for old Bethel! What Presbytery can show its equal in faithfulness of the eldership?

The increase of \$19,507 in our Home Mission receipts is very fine and causes great rejoicing for the sake of the work. Let it be noted, however, that the churches have not yet done their full duty, and that they are not to have the credit of this increase. The increase in legacies over the previous year is \$21,039, leaving the actual contributions of the churches really a little lower than the year before.

In church erection, the Atlanta committee donated, during the year just closed, to Texas churches, \$1,650; to Oklahoma churches, \$1,850; and to Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and South Carolina churches, \$1,000. Loans were made to Texas churches, \$1,800; Oklahoma churches, \$2,324; Georgia, Mississippi churches, \$1,700. These donations and loans helped many a church into life.

In the May number of the "Home Mission Herald" special attention is paid to the people of foreign speech who are living amongst us. Louisiana Synod has over-tured the General Assembly to enlarge the operations of the Home Missions Committee so as to give special attention to this large class of our population. The Atlanta Committee is already, in the spirit of this over-ture, greatly enlarging its work in this direction. In Louisiana and Texas together there are more than half a million foreign speaking people. They bring home and foreign work combined right to our doors.

In Atlanta we have had a musical festival that aroused great enthusiasm. As an outcome of it, there is a proposition to maintain the organization of the musical chorus and give concerts in the Auditorium on Sunday afternoons. With these concerts we hope the Christians in Atlanta will have nothing to do. The Sabbath is the Lord's day; the holding of such concerts is not for the Lord, but for earthly pleasure. They have no place on the Sabbath.

"Small matter!" Did we hear some one say that a Sunday afternoon concert is a small matter? Let us not forget that when the devil wants to sever a man from right and truth, he seeks a wedge with an exceedingly fine edge. Such an instrument as this would suit him well because the wrongfulness of it is to some persons hard to perceive. But be it remembered that in other cities in years past, when a "sacred concert" has been tolerated on Sunday nights, the "sacred concert" effectively opened the way for "Sunday theatres" and that these theatres are now in full blast. Let the Sabbath be maintained as "the Lord's day."

We get a suggestion of the colossal proportions of the ravages of strong drink in Great Britain from the statement of Professor Orr, of Edinburg, to the effect that all the missionary enterprises conducted by all the churches of the world during the entire nineteenth century had been conducted at a less financial cost than the amount spent by the British people in one year for intoxicating liquors. When we realize to what extent the liquor habit has produced the degeneracy of the British nation and threatens to produce its downfall, and reflect upon the beneficent influences of mission enterprise on the welfare of the whole world, how eloquent and how tragic this statement appears!

The brotherhood movement has its imperfections doubtless, but that it is wonderfully virile, appealing to popular intelligence and judgment, is apparent. It has taken a vigorous hold in Canada and Great Britain. Thirty-five brotherhoods have been organized in and around Edinburg, Scotland, with a membership of 75,000. Prof. George Adam Smith regards it as the "most important movement since the Reformation." Closely allied to it, and based upon the same broad conception of personal responsibility and concerted effort, is the Laymen's Missionary Movement. Of the recent Laymen's Congress in Toronto, Secretary J. Campbell White says, "Never before has there been such an exhibition of interest by men in the evangelization of the world." Fifteen hundred ministers and over twenty-five hundred laymen were registered as commissioners. In June, 1910, there will be held in Edinburg, Scotland, a World's Missionary Conference, which is expected to give added impulse to the great enterprise of giving the Gospel to the whole world in this generation.